



NEWS



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NIPTON: Fire shuts down one tower at Ivanpah solar plant

Jim Steinberg, Press Enterprise

Posted: May 19, 2016

Updated: May 19, 2016, 4:17 PM



The Ivanpah Solar Power Facility in the San Bernardino County desert includes 173,000 mirrors focusing solar energy on three 459-foot-tall towers. A fire in a mid-level floor of Tower 3 on Thursday, May 19, 2016, has caused that unit to shut down. Terry Pierson, File Photo

A fire in a mid-level floor of one of the 459-foot-tall Ivanpah Solar Power Facility towers has caused that unit to shut down for an undetermined time, the plant's manager said Thursday.

The fire was reported shortly after 9:30 a.m. and drew response from firefighters in both San Bernardino County and Clark County, Nevada, said **San Bernardino County fire** officials.

However, the fire was extinguished within about 20 minutes by work crews at the 392-megawatt power plant, said William Dusenbury, plant manager.

The plant has three solar power generating towers. Tower 2 was shut down for maintenance prior to the fire at Tower 3, Dusenbury said.

By the time a San Bernardino County crew from Baker arrived on scene, the fire was out, said Kristen Anderson, associate dispatch supervisor. The Clark County crew, with three fire pumper trucks, arrived a short time earlier.

Crews from both agencies helped Ivanpah employees search the tower for "hot spots," Dusenbury said.

The cause of the fire is under investigation, officials said.

<http://www.pe.com/articles/fire-803372-solar-one.html>

Mirrors blamed for fire at world's largest solar plant

San Francisco Chronicle

Posted: May 19, 2016

Updated: May 19, 2016, 6:50 PM



This photo provided by the San Bernardino County, Calif., Fire Department shows damage to the interior of a solar generating tower, which authorities say was caused by misaligned mirrors causing a small fire that shut down a generating tower at the Ivanpah Solar Power Facility, the world's largest solar power plant, in Nipton, Calif., near Primm, Nev., on the California-Nevada border Thursday, May 19, 2016.(San Bernardino County Fire Department via AP)

PRIMM, Nev. (AP) — A small fire shut down a generating tower Thursday at the world's largest solar power plant, leaving the sprawling facility on the California-Nevada border operating at only a third of its capacity, authorities said.

Firefighters had to climb some 300 feet up a boiler tower at the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System in California after fire was reported on an upper level around 9:30 a.m., fire officials said.

The plant works by using mirrors to focus sunlight on boilers at the top of three 459-foot towers, creating steam that drive turbines to produce electricity.

But some misaligned mirrors instead focused sunbeams on a different level of Unit 3, causing electrical cables to catch fire, **San Bernardino County, California** fire Capt. Mike McClintock said.

David Knox, spokesman for plant operator NRG Energy, said it was too early to comment on the cause, which was under investigation.

The fire was located about two-thirds of the way up the tower, said Jeff Buchanan of Nevada's Clark County Fire Department, which also responded to the blaze.

Plant personnel had the fire out by the time firefighters reached the spot, and it was officially declared out in about 20 minutes.

Photos showed melted and scorched steam ducts and water pipes.

Knox said the tower was offline while crews assess the damage. He could not immediately say when it would restart.

The plant can produce enough power for 140,000 California homes, but a second tower is shut down for maintenance, leaving only one running.

It was not immediately clear what impact that would have on California's electricity supply.

It was the first fire at the plant, which opened two years ago on federal land in the Mojave Desert about 45 miles southwest of Las Vegas.

The \$2.2 billion complex has nearly 350,000 computer controlled mirrors — each roughly the size of a garage door — that sprawl over roughly five square miles of desert.

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/news/science/article/Misaligned-mirrors-blamed-for-fire-at-California-7755396.php>

The World's Largest Solar Plant Just Torched Itself

George Dvorsky, Gizmodo

Posted: May 20, 2016, 10:13 AM EST



The Ivanpah Plant (Image: ISEGS)

Misaligned mirrors are being blamed for a fire that broke out yesterday at the world's largest solar power plant, leaving the high-tech facility crippled for the time being. It sounds like the plant's workers suffered through a real hellscape, too.

A small fire was reported yesterday morning at the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (ISEGS) in California, forcing a temporary shutdown of the facility. It's now running at a third of its capacity (a second tower is down due to scheduled maintenance), and it's not immediately clear when the damaged tower will restart. It's also unclear how the incident will impact California's electricity supply.

Putting out the blaze was not easy task, either. Firefighters were forced to climb 300 feet up a boiler tower to get to the scene. Officials said the fire was located about two-thirds up the tower. Workers at the plant actually managed to subdue the flames by the time firefighters reached the spot, and it was officially extinguished about 20 minutes after it started.

Located on 4,000 acres of public land in the Mojave Desert, the sprawling concentrated solar thermal plant is equipped with 173,500 heliostats—each with two mirrors—that focus sunlight on boilers located on top of three 459-foot towers. The tremendous heat created by the concentrated solar power produces steam that drives turbines to produce electricity. The plant, the largest of its kind in the world, features a gross capacity

of 392 megawatts, enough to power 140,000 homes. Each of the computer-controlled solar-reflecting mirrors is about the size of a garage door.

A spokesperson for the plant said it's too early to comment on the cause, but it appears that misaligned mirrors are to blame. The Associated Press quoted Mike McClintock, the **San Bernardino County fire** captain, who said that some mirrors delivered sunlight to a different level on the third unit, causing electrical cables to catch fire.

Inevitably, the incident reveals the inherent dangers of concentrated solar power as well as the need to ensure that the mirrors are always on target. Concentrated solar power plants, in addition to being a menace to themselves, can also pose a hazard to local wildlife. Last year, a plant in Nevada torched over a hundred birds when they flew through the plant's "flux field."

It's yet another setback for the Ivanpah facility. For the past few months, the plant has been unable to meet the output levels stipulated in its power purchase agreement, and it was given an extension until July 31, 2016 to improve performance. This fire obviously isn't going to help.

<http://gizmodo.com/the-world-s-largest-solar-plant-just-torched-itself-1777767880>

Fire breaks out at world's largest solar power plant near Nevada border

Brittney Mejia, LA Times

Posted: May 20, 2016, 2:30 PM



A fire at the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System on Thursday morning shut down one generating tower at the facility. (San Bernardino County Fire Department)

A generating tower at the world's largest solar energy plant was shut down Thursday after a mirror misalignment caused sunlight to burn through electrical wiring and start a small fire, according to officials.

The blaze at the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System in the Mojave Desert broke out around 9:30 a.m., according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**. In a Facebook post, officials said that flames could be seen near the ninth floor of the Unit 3 tower, but that they had apparently died out by the time firefighters arrived.

The plant is located near Interstate 15, just inside the California border southwest of Primm, Nev. It uses enormous mirrors to reflect sunlight to boilers atop three towers. The sun's energy heats the water to more than 1,000 degrees, creating steam that spins electricity-generating turbines.

Some misaligned mirrors instead focused sunlight on a different spot, which caused the electrical cables to catch fire, San Bernardino County Fire Capt. Mike McClintock told the Associated Press.

William Dusenbury, general manager of Ivanpah, said a plant worker used a fire extinguisher to put out the fire.

"It wasn't a big fire at all," he said.

Workers are still repairing some of the damaged cables, and there was no estimate on when the tower would be back online, he said.

Clark County Fire Rescue 87 from Jean, Nev., also assisted in the response.

Only one of three towers is currently operating, with the fire shutting down one and another undergoing maintenance, Dusenbury said.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-solar-plant-fire-20160520-snap-story.html>

Church Bus Accident on Highway 330: 21 Injured

Michael P. Neufeld, Rim of the World News

Posted: May 22, 2016, 12:57 AM



Twenty-one injuries were reported following the church bus crash that closed Highway 330 for about four hours Sunday. (Photo by San Bernardino County Fire)

UPDATE: Monday, May 23 – 3:33 a.m.

Running Springs, CA – The Arrowhead CHP Office is investigating the crash of a white 2000 ElDorado church bus with 22 passengers that crashed Sunday afternoon about two miles north of Highland Avenue on Highway 330.

The crash — reported shortly after 2 p.m. — closed the roadway for about four hours.

Officer Edward McGrath is handling the investigation, according to a media advisory issued by the CHP.

ACCIDENT DETAILS



The accident happened shortly after 2 p.m. Sunday. (Photo by San Bernardino County Fire)

The bus was being driven by Teresa Benitez, a 49-year-old resident of Paramount. Her vehicle was southbound on Highway 330 at the time of the incident.

Christopher Duce, a 30-year-old Los Angeles resident was driving a white Nissan Versa southbound on Highway 330.

The CHP reports that for an unknown reason, Benitez allowed the front of church bus owned by Ministerios Llamada Final out of Downey to collide with the rear of Nissan and consequently lost control of bus.

The small bus then overturned and came to rest, blocking both directions of SR-330.

The church bus was the last vehicle in a 6 bus caravan returning women from a church retreat in the San Bernardino Mountains. The five additional buses that were not involved in the incident were chartered, according to a statement issued by the church.

Passengers on those buses told reporters they were unaware of the accident until they received text messages from victims in the smaller bus.

THE INJURIES

The CHP press release states that there were a total of 22 passengers in the bus and one passenger in the Nissan.

There were no injuries claimed by Duce or his passenger.

There were four passengers out of the church bus that claimed major injuries, but none were life-threatening, according to emergency personnel on scene.

A total of 21 passengers out of the bus were transported via ambulance to St. Bernadine's and Arrowhead Regional Medical Centers once they received initial treatment at a makeshift triage area established on the edge of Highway 330.

THE INVESTIGATION

The cause of the collision is still under investigation by the CHP's Major Accident Investigation Team (MAIT).

Armada Towing cleared the vehicle from the roadway and it was taken to a secure location for inspection by the CHP.

UPDATE: Sunday, May 22 – 4:45 p.m.

Highland, CA – CHP Public Information Officer Juan Quintero spoke with media at the scene of the accident and stated that there were 22 persons transported from the tour bus.

“Four had major injuries but none were life threatening,” Quintero said.

Quintero explained that the 2000 ElDorado bus made contact with the rear of a 2013 Nissan Versa prior to rolling over.

The CHP spokesman indicated there were no injuries reported to the occupants of the Nissan.

UPDATE: Sunday, May 22 – 4:05 p.m.

Running Springs, CA – Caltrans has established the closure of Highway 330 at Live Oak in Running Springs.

The tour bus had a total of 26 passengers, according to San Bernardino County Fire's Jeremy Kern.

UPDATE: Sunday, May 22 – 2:41 p.m.

Running Springs, CA – Two persons are reported in critical condition following the rollover of a small tour bus on Highway 330 at the City Creek Ranger Station that closed the roadway between Highland and Running Springs.

San Bernardino County Fire Public Information Officer Jeremy Kern told ROTWNEWS.com that 15 ambulances have been requested to the scene. There are at least three medical crews on scene from County Fire, San Manuel Fire and San Bernardino.

The hard closure of Highway 330 will be for an extended period.

ORIGINAL STORY

Running Springs, CA – The California Highway Patrol and San Bernardino County Fire are working a rollover accident on Highway 330 involving a shuttle bus.

Initial reports indicate 50 persons were on the bus at the time of the accident that was reported about 2 p.m. The accident blocked both lanes of the roadway.

Additional information will be released shortly.

<http://rotwnews.com/2016/05/22/breaking-news-shuttle-bus-accident-on-highway-330/>

Highway 330 shut down after Downey church bus overturns near San Bernardino

Doug Saunders, The Sun

Posted: May 22, 2016, 2:48 PM

Updated: May 23, 2016, 12:21 AM



Nearly two-dozen people were injured, six with major injuries, after a small tour bus crashed and rolled over on Highway 330 approximately 2 miles north of the 210 Freeway Sunday afternoon near San Bernardino. Will Lester/Staff Photographer

SAN BERNARDINO >> A small tour bus carrying 22 members of a Downey church from a retreat in Big Bear overturned Sunday afternoon on Highway 330 two miles north of the 210 Freeway, injuring nearly two-dozen people – six seriously – and blocking the road in both directions.

About 5:15 p.m., the California Highway Patrol reported that the bus had been removed, but it took an additional hour and 15 minutes to reopen both lanes of the highway. Northbound traffic was being stopped at Highland Avenue in Highland, and southbound traffic at the ranger station while crews attended to the scene.

More than 200 women from Iglesia de Cristo Ministerios Llamada Final were traveling in five or six buses from an annual retreat meeting in the San Bernardino Mountains, said Robert Acosta, the assistant to the senior pastor.

The bus that crashed had 22 passengers onboard, said Jeremy Kern of the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

AMR ambulances were lined up one after the other to transport the patients to various hospitals after they were assessed and treated at a makeshift triage area at the crash scene.

“At one point, there was contact between the front of the 2000 El Dorado bus and the rear of a 2013 Nissan Versa before the bus overturned at 2:11 p.m.,” CHP spokesman Juan Quintero said.

Of the bus passengers wounded, six suffered major but non life-threatening injuries, Quintero said. No one in the Versa was injured.

Several of the first responders said they smelled the distinct odor of overheated brakes when they first arrived on scene, but Quintero said it’s too early in the investigation to say what caused the crash.

The CHP’s Major Accident Investigation Team is looking into the cause. The bus will be taken as evidence and will undergo an inspection.

Acosta said the bus that crashed belongs to the church, while the rest of the retreatgoers were in four or five rented full-size buses. The church-owned bus is inspected periodically by the CHP and used at least twice a week, he said. To his knowledge, it was in good condition.

“We got the news right after regular Sunday service,” Acosta said. “It was unnerving, but we immediately pulled together our key leadership team to see what we could do to help our families.”

He and some of the families had gathered at the church Sunday evening to await more information from authorities. As vanloads of people arrived, they were greeted by hugs and then went inside.

“This is unsettling news, but as Christians we believe those who love the Lord will have faith and stand together,” Acosta said. “We are hoping and praying that all will be well.”

Parishioner Denise Mayorga of Whittier was on one of the other buses, which were ahead of the one that flipped. They didn’t see what happened, but they stopped when they learned about the crash.

Mayorga said she talked with a nurse and her husband who were a few cars behind the crash and went to help. The couple said when they got there, they saw smoking tires and a lot of blood.

When the passengers on the other bus learned of the crash, Mayorga said, the prayers started immediately.

“It was terrible news to get. It was nerve-wracking,” she said. “We pray that everyone will be all right. We will pray for our people.”

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160522/highway-330-shut-down-after-downey-church-bus-overtums-near-san-bernardino>

2 Dozen Injured — 4 Seriously — In Shuttle Bus Rollover on Highway 330

CBS Los Angeles

Posted: May 22, 2016, 3:01 PM

SAN BERNARDINO (CBSLA.com) — More than two dozen people have been hurt in a shuttle bus rollover crash on Highway 330, **San Bernardino County fire** officials reported Sunday.

The accident prompted officials to close 330 between Live Oak Drive and Highland Avenue.

There was no word yet on when the roadway would reopen.

CBS2’s Jeff Ngyuen reported from the scene, an area with narrow winding roads on the side of a mountain.

Paramedics on scene told him that of the two dozen injuries at least four were “major.” All of the injuries involved passengers on the bus. All are expected to live. The rest of the injuries were described as “minor.”

All of the injured were transported to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, Nguyen reported.

Officials told him the crash and rollover occurred after the bus rear-ended a Nissan Sentra.

Both vehicles were going downhill at the time of the accident.

The bus belongs to Lamada Final Ministries, a church located in Downey. Nguyen called the phone number on the side of the bus but no one at the church answered.

People on the bus as well as people in the Sentra declined to talk to reporters.

Investigators are trying to determine the official cause of the crash.

Police told Nguyen that neither driver appeared to be under the influence.

KCAL's Cristy Fajardo picked up the story nightside.

She reported from Lamada Final Ministries in Downey.

A large group of people gathered there to sing and to pray for their loved ones who were on the bus.

Congregants told her the bus was returning to Downey from a woman's retreat in the mountains.

As of 11 p.m. Sunday, Fajardo reported all but six of the congregants have left the hospital.

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2016/05/22/multiple-people-injured-in-shuttle-bus-rollover-crash-on-highway-330/>

21 People Injured After Bus Returning From Church Retreat Overturns Near Highland

Cindy Von Quednow and Ellina Abovian, KTLA

Posted May 22, 2016, 3:42 PM

Updated: May 22, 2016, 10:02 PM

More than 20 people were injured after a shuttle bus returning from a church retreat overturned along Highway 330 in San Bernardino County Sunday afternoon, officials said.

The crash was reported about 2 p.m. along the rural highway near Highland.

The California Highway Patrol reported there were 50 passengers on the bus, but Jeremy Kern of the **San Bernardino County Fire District** later said there were 22 people aboard.



Authorities responded to an overturned shuttle bus along Highway 330 near Highland on May 22, 2016. (Credit: Tod Sudmeier)

A total of 21 people were injured, with four suffering critical injuries, Kern said. Everyone is expected to survive, officials said.

Highway 330 is closed from Highland to City Creek.

The crash is being investigated by the CHP. Initial reports indicate that the bus crashed into a car along the road, sideswiped a steep canyon wall before overturning on the road. The driver of the car, a 30-year-old Los Angeles woman, was not injured in the crash, according to the highway patrol.

“These are treacherous roads, mountainous roads, so it’s not uncommon for people who are inexperienced to be involved in accidents up here,” said CHP Officer Juan Quintero.

He added that the crash could have been much worse, given the many blind turns on the roads and the steep drop on the edge of the highway.

It is unclear what caused the crash, but investigators suspect the bus may have had brake issues.

The Redlands, San Manuel and Running Springs fire departments as well as Cal Fire and San Bernardino National Forest officials were also at the scene.

All of the victims had been taken to local hospitals by 3:45 p.m., fire officials said.

The bus was the last in a caravan of others carrying a group of congregants from Llamada Final Ministries in Downey. The passengers were returning from an annual women’s ministry retreat from Big Bear, said Robert Acosta, the ministry pastor’s assistant.

Everyone on the bus was from the ministry and about 200 women attended the retreat, Acosta said.

Church and family members gathered at the church Sunday hoping to hear updates on the incident.

KTLA’s Stephen Acosta contributed to this story.

<http://ktla.com/2016/05/22/shuttle-bus-overturns-along-highway-330-near-highland-6-people-reportedly-injured/>

Bus flips over on Highway 330, injuring 26

Two critically hurt; all patients transported

Shea Johnson, Daily Press

Posted: May 22, 2016, 4:22 PM



A shuttle bus carrying 26 people and traveling in the San Bernardino Mountains rolled over Sunday afternoon, critically injuring two and causing moderate or minor injuries to 24 more, a fire official said. Photo courtesy of Tod Sudmeier

A shuttle bus carrying 26 people and traveling in the San Bernardino Mountains rolled over Sunday afternoon, critically injuring two and causing moderate or minor injuries to 24 more, a fire official said.

The incident was reported at 2:10 p.m. on Highway 330 and spurred a wide-reaching response from regional agencies, according to **San Bernardino County Fire** Capt. Jeremy Kern. As of 3:30 p.m., 15 ground ambulances had been on scene.

Kern told the Daily Press that all patients had been transported to area hospitals for treatment by 3:30 p.m., including four who sustained moderate injuries and 20 who were considered “walking wounded.”

The crash caused a hard closure from Highland Avenue to City Creek, which remained in effect as of 4 p.m. Kern said California Highway Patrol would be the point of contact for questions about what may have caused the bus to roll over and land on its side.

CHP incident logs show the bus may have been going too fast and also rear-ended a vehicle before it flipped over, but that information was unconfirmed as of 4 p.m.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160522/NEWS/160529914/0/SEARCH>

20 injured in San Bernardino Mountains rollover crash

Rosanna Xia and Matt Hamilton, LA Times

Posted: May 22, 2016, 10:50 PM



A small tour bus crashed and rolled over Sunday on Highway 330 approximately 2 miles north of the 210 Freeway, authorities said. (Will Lester / The Inland Valley Daily Bulletin)

Nearly two dozen people were injured Sunday when a shuttle bus rolled over on California 330 in the San Bernardino Mountains, north of the city of Highland.

Fire officials responded to the scene shortly after 2 p.m., authorities said. Twenty of the 22 people on the bus suffered injuries, according to Capt. Jeremy Kern of the **San Bernardino County Fire District**.

The bus was one of several in a caravan taking about 200 people from a Big Bear-area retreat back to a church in Downey.

"We got the news right after regular Sunday service," Robert Acosta, assistant to the senior pastor at Iglesia de Cristo Ministerior Llamada Final, told the Riverside Press-Enterprise. "It was unnerving, but we immediately pulled together."

The bus is owned by the church and is used about twice per week by the church, Acosta told the paper.

Numerous agencies were called in to assist. Of those injured, six had major injuries and were immediately taken to a hospital, Kern said. The rest had mild to moderate injuries. All of those injured are expected to survive.

By 3:45 p.m., all of the injured had been transported to local hospitals, fire officials.

Authorities shut down California 330 from Highland Avenue to City Creek Ranger Station. The California Highway Patrol reopened the road about 6:30 p.m.

The crash is under investigation by the CHP.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-bus-crash-20160522-snap-story.html>

21 Taken To Hospital after Highland Bus Rollover Crash

Staff Reports, ABC7

Posted: May 22, 2016, 11:39 PM



A rollover crash involving a bus injured 21 people in Highland on Sunday, May 22, 2016, according to the California Highway Patrol.

HIGHLAND, Calif. (KABC) -- A shuttle bus with 22 people on-board was involved in a rollover crash on Highway 330 in Highland on Sunday, according to the California Highway Patrol.

CHP said the 2000 El Dorado Bus was heading southbound on Highway 330, just north of Highland Avenue, at about 2:10 p.m.

The shuttle bus rear-ended a Nissan Versa, overturned, and came to a rest blocking both lanes of the roadway, according to CHP.



A rollover crash involving a Highland tour bus injured 26 people on Sunday, May 22, 2016, according to the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

Officials said of the 22 people on-board the shuttle bus, 21 were taken by ambulance to the hospital.

Four of the passengers taken to the hospital had major injuries, but none were life threatening, CHP stated.



A rollover crash involving a Highland tour bus injured 26 people on Sunday, May 22, 2016, according to the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

Authorities said the driver and passenger in the Nissan were not injured.

The bus was transporting a group of women from the Ministerios Llamada Final church in Downey. According to church officials, the bus was one of several heading home from a women's retreat in Big Bear.

Church members said it appeared the brakes went out, but CHP said a mechanical specialist would have to inspect the bus before any determination was made.

CHP said their investigation into the crash was ongoing.

<http://abc7.com/news/26-injured-in-highland-tour-bus-rollover-crash/1350531/>

SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAINS: About 20 hurt when church bus overturns

Six of the wounded have major but not life-threatening injuries, officials say. The passengers were going from a Big Bear retreat back to their Downey church.

Doug Saunders and Tom Bray, Press Enterprise

Published: May 22, 2016

Updated: May 23, 2016, 7:20 AM



About 20 people were hurt, six with major injuries, after a small bus crashed and rolled over on Highway 330 in the San Bernardino Mountains north of Highland on Sunday, May 22, 2016. The bus was carrying members of Iglesia de Cristo Ministerios Llamada Final back to their Downey church from a retreat in Big Bear. Will Lester, Staff Photographer

A small tour bus carrying 22 members of a Downey church from a retreat in Big Bear overturned Sunday afternoon on Highway 330, sending most or all of the passengers to the hospital – including six with major injuries.

The highway was blocked in both directions until just after 6:30 p.m.

More than 200 women from Iglesia De Cristo Ministerios Llamada Final were traveling in five or six buses from an annual retreat meeting in the San Bernardino Mountains, said Robert Acosta, the assistant to the senior pastor.

The bus that crashed had 22 passengers onboard, said Jeremy Kern of the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

It overturned at 2:11 p.m. on the southbound 330, 2 miles north of the junction with the 210 in Highland, officials said.

“At one point, there was contact between the front of the 2000 El Dorado bus and the rear of a 2013 Nissan Versa,” CHP spokesman Juan Quintero said.

AMR ambulances were lined up one after the other to transport patients to various hospitals after they were assessed and treated at a makeshift triage area at the crash scene.

Reports varied on whether 20 or 22 people were wounded. Quintero said six passengers suffered major but non-life-threatening injuries. No one in the Versa was injured.

Several of the first responders said they smelled the distinct odor of overheated brakes when they first arrived on scene, but Quintero said it’s too early in the investigation to say what caused the crash.

The CHP’s Major Accident Investigation Team is looking into the cause. The bus will be taken as evidence and will undergo an inspection.

Acosta said the bus that crashed belongs to the church, while the rest of the retreat-goers were in four or five rented full-size buses. The church-owned bus is inspected periodically by the CHP and used at least twice a week, he said. To his knowledge, it was in good condition.

“We got the news right after regular Sunday service,” Acosta said. “It was unnerving, but we immediately pulled together our key leadership team to see what we could do to help our families.”

He and some of the families had gathered at the church Sunday evening to await more information from authorities. As vanloads of people arrived, they were greeted by hugs and then went inside.

“This is unsettling news, but as Christians we believe those who love the lord will have faith and stand together,” Acosta said. “We are hoping and praying that all will be well.”

Parishioner Denise Mayorga of Whittier was on one of the other buses, which were ahead of the one that flipped. They didn’t see what happened, but they stopped when they learned about the crash.

Mayorga said she talked with a nurse and her husband who were a few cars behind the crash and went to help. The couple said when they got there, they saw smoking tires and a lot of blood.

When the passengers on the other bus learned of the crash, Mayorga said, the prayers started immediately.

“It was terrible news to get. It was nerve-wracking,” she said. “We pray that everyone will be all right. We will pray for our people.”

Three years ago, a tour bus crashed on the 38 near Yucaipa killing eight people on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 3, 2013.

Witnesses said the brakes failed, causing the bus to careen out of control down the mountain and roll.

The driver - 55-year-old Norberto Bravo Perez, has been charged with vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence. He has entered not-guilty pleas to the charges.

<http://www.pe.com/articles/bus-803640-san-people.html>

Council will talk about spending

Hi-Desert Star

Posted: May 19, 2016, 12:26 PM

Updated: May 19, 2016, 1:53 PM

TWENTYNINE PALMS — The City Council will consider approval of the 2016-17 general fund budget when it meets in regular session at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 24, in council chambers at city hall, 6136 Adobe Road.

Councilmembers will also consider approval of a \$3,285,577, plus incidental expenses, contract for law enforcement services with the San Bernardino County sheriff's department.

Acting during the consent calendar portion of the meeting, councilmembers will consider approval of an agreement to lease the downtown fire station to the **San Bernardino County Fire Protection District** and to use \$190,000 in Project Phoenix bond proceeds to upgrade and repair the heating and air conditioning system, roof and living quarters.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/the_desert_trail/news/article_cf58e370-1df6-11e6-a0fc-5bf188a26d86.html

'Gordon Fire' in Mohave Valley grows to 400 acres

Tami Hoey, KTVK Phoenix

Posted: May 20, 2016, 6:13 PM

Updated: May 20, 2016, 9:40 PM



(Source: Paul Carlton)

MOHAVE VALLEY, AZ (KPHO/KTVK) - The "Gordon Fire" burning in Mohave Valley has grown to 400 acres. And the Mohave Valley Fire Department has ordered approximately 60 evacuations.

The wildfire fire is burning near Willow Valley, north of I-40.

The fire is zero percent contained and is said to be threatening homes.

Approximately 60 families have been told to evacuate. Fire Marshal Don Gibson reports no further evacuations of homes is expected at this time.

The Red Cross has opened a shelter at Mohave Valley Elementary School, 1419 Willow Drive, for those individuals and families displaced by the Gordon fire.

Those displaced by the fire will not be allowed to return to their homes tonight, Gibson said.

"We don't want to let people in and then have to evacuate them again," he said. "Public safety and the safety of our fire crews is our number one priority."

Initial evacuations included homes on the north side of Gordon Drive and the farming community on Boundary Cone Road. The evacuation area then spread to threatened homes on the south side of Gordon Drive.

Residents of the farming community are sheltering at the Mojave Crossing Events Center on Aztec Road.

Residents of the Gordon Drive neighborhood are sheltering at Mohave Valley Elementary School on Willow Drive.

The fire is believed to be electrical in origin, according to initial reports. A transformer caught fire around 5 p.m., and the flames spread to nearby trees.

No structures have been lost at this time.

Most of the 400+ acres that have burned are tribal agricultural land.

About 60 personnel responded to the scene, including crews from the Fort Mojave Mesa, Bullhead City, Oatman and **San Bernardino County fire departments**.

Also responding were BHCPD, Arizona DPS and Mohave County Sheriff's deputies.

Colorado River Union High School District officials are reporting that graduation ceremonies for River Valley and Mohave high schools will take place Saturday at the Mojave Crossing Event Center as scheduled.

RVHS' graduation is at 10 a.m., and Mohave's is at 6 p.m. The Mohave Valley Daily News will provide an update if the situation changes.

<http://www.azfamily.com/story/32029673/gordon-fire-in-mohave-valley-grows-to-400-acres>

Rollover crashes critically injure 2

Staff Reports, Daily Press

Posted: May 21, 2016, 5:06 PM

BAKER — Fire officials rescued two persons trapped in their vehicles after separate crashes on Interstate 15 early Saturday morning.

San Bernardino County Fire Department officials said in a Saturday news release both crashes required extrication and the persons both suffered critical injuries. Another passenger in one of the crashes suffered minor injuries and did not require medical transport.

“Fortunately, both victims were seatbelted at the time of the crash,” officials stated in the release. “Seatbelts save lives.”

The first crash was reported just before 5:30 a.m. Saturday on southbound I-15 north of Afton Road, between Barstow and Baker. Initial reports stated that a vehicle was involved in a rollover crash and one occupant was trapped inside.

County Fire officials dispatched a vehicle extrication assignment, which included Engine 53 from Baker, a paramedic engine and heavy rescue from the Marine Corps Logistics Base Fire Department, as well as a battalion chief. The units arrived 24 minutes after dispatch, officials said, and found the vehicle blocking lanes and occupied by two passengers.

The person trapped was extricated in under 10 minutes using the Jaws of Life, and was airlifted to a nearby landing zone, while the second passenger suffered minor injuries and refused medical treatment.

The second crash was reported as fire officials were responding to the first incident, officials said. This crash occurred on northbound Interstate 15 south of Razor Road, about 13 miles south of Baker, and was also reported to be a rollover crash with one person trapped inside.

A second vehicle extrication assignment was dispatched to respond to the crash, which included a paramedic brush patrol from Helendale and Desert Ambulance from Barstow. The MCLB Fire Department also diverted their equipment from the first crash to assist with the second incident, officials said.

The first arriving chief officer from MCLB confirmed that a person was trapped inside the vehicle and would also require extrication. The trapped person also suffered critical injuries and needed to be airlifted due to severity of injuries. Extrication was complete in 10 minutes, officials said, and no other injuries were reported.

<http://www.desertdispatch.com/news/20160521/rollover-crashes-critically-injure-2>

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